REMARKS

Fig. 11 has been amended to correct typographical and inadvertent errors.

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Dev et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the cited reference does not disclose (or suggest) the features of the problem alarm notifying part of the invention.

Independent claims 1, 7 and 13 have been amended to more clearly describe the invention. As amended, these claims describe that the problem alarm notifying part specifies which device is causing the problem in accordance with a result of a determination (based on the dependent information maintained by a relationship object maintaining part) as to whether each of the devices identified by device information maintained by an event table maintaining part influences another device as a result of the problem, so that an alarm is displayed with respect to the specified device which is causing the problem. In other words, an alarm is displayed to identify the device that is responsible for originally causing the problem, based on the dependent information which relates to relationships between devices connected to the network and indicates how one device influences another device in the event of a problem. An alarm is not displayed for devices in the network that are only influenced by the problem, but did not cause it.

The Dev et al. reference relates to a network managing system including a virtual network machine 12 having a plurality of models corresponding to communicating and non-communicating network devices or entities such as coaxial segments, connectors, buses, rings, optical fiber segments, etc., that cannot be directly polled to obtain their status.

13

The reference teaches that the status of non-communicating network entities are "inferred" from the status of the communicating network entities. For example, for models of non-communication entities that cannot be polled directly, such as models of rooms or buildings containing network devices or models of cables, the status is inferred by the model from information contained in models of other network devices (see col. 7, lines 42-46).

In the present invention, a relationship object maintaining part maintains dependent information for each relationship between devices connected to the network. This information reveals how one device influences another device when one of the devices causes a problem. A predetermined rule defines the dependent information based on the relationship between the two types of devices that are connected. As a result, the problem alarm notifying part is able to display an alarm with respect to the specified device which is actually causing the problem and influencing the other device.

The virtual network machine 12 of Dev et al. merely contains a software representation of the connections of the physical devices in the network, but does not disclose (or suggest) the relationship object maintaining part as in the invention. Accordingly, the Dev et al. reference does not disclose or suggest the problem alarm notifying part which specifies which device is causing the problem, so that an alarm is displayed with respect to the specified device which is causing the problem. The system of Dev et al. cannot determine the device which originated the problem. For example, Dev et al. teaches that "the status of the cable can be inferred from information contained in a model of the attached network device" (see col. 7, lines 49-51). However, if the problem originates from the

network device itself, the system of Dev et al. cannot determine from which device, i.e., whether the cable or the network device, the problem originated. For these reasons, independent claims 1, 7 and 13 and their respective dependent claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-18 are allowable over Dev et al.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. The Examiner should contact Applicants' undersigned attorney if a telephone conference would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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By   _[signature]_

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FIG.11

START

S61

RECEIVE EVENT FROM AGENT

~~S61~~ S62

SEARCH FOR RELATIONSHIP OBJECT AND CHECK WHETHER RELATED MANAGEMENT OBJECT EXISTS

~~S61~~ S63

SEARCH FOR EVENT OF RELATED MANAGEMENT OBJECT

~~S13~~ S64

NO

FOUND?

YES   ~~S61~~ S65

SET SUPPRESS-FLAG FOR RETRIEVED EVENT ON

~~S13~~ S66

NO   COMPLETED?

YES

END